

ABSTRACT

A method for selectively shunting an acoustic driver within an electronic device detects the presence of a squelch signal from a local emitter and automatically shunts the acoustic driver in response to the detection, free of any communication back to the emitter. The squelch signal originates from an emitter which is positioned extrinsic to the device, and can be broadcast so as to define a zone of influence within which the acoustic drivers of electronic devices will be squelched. In lieu of an acoustic driver, a vibrator can be activated to quietly alert the user of the incoming message while the squelch signal is present. As a result, the invention enables a proprietor to a greater degree of control over ringing and beeping noises generated by such devices when positioned within a designated space. A broadcast system for defining the zone of influence and electronic devices that include circuitry that implement the method are also disclosed.